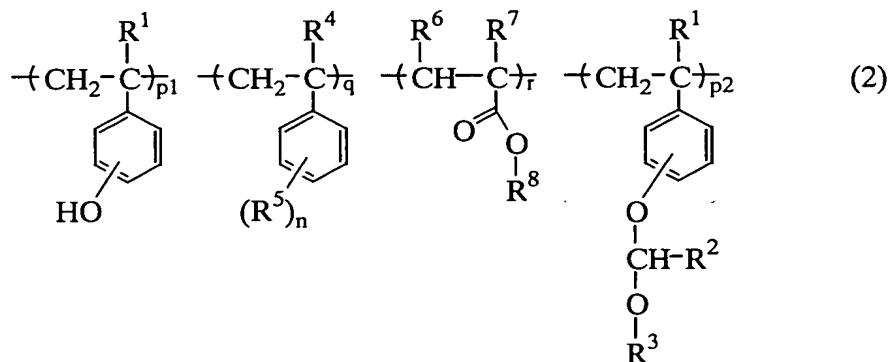
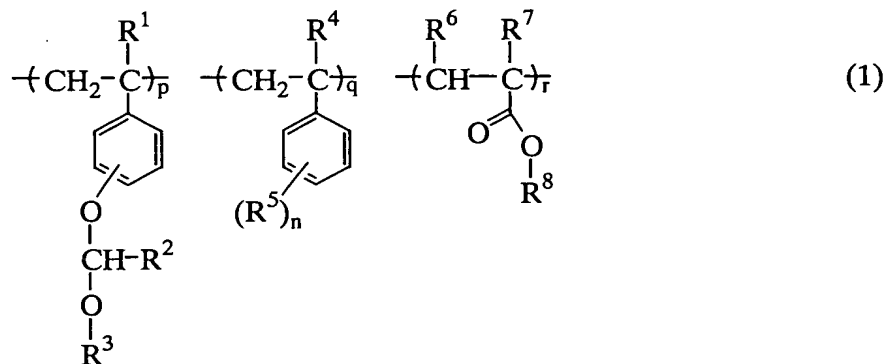


# ABSTRACT

A polymer comprising recurring units of formula (2) is prepared by effecting deblocking reaction on a polymer comprising recurring units of formula (1) in the presence of an acid catalyst.



In the formulae,  $\text{R}^1$  and  $\text{R}^4$  are H or methyl,  $\text{R}^2$  and  $\text{R}^3$  are C1-C10 alkyl, or  $\text{R}^2$  and  $\text{R}^3$  may form a ring,  $\text{R}^5$  is H, hydroxyl, alkyl, alkoxy or halogen,  $\text{R}^6$  and  $\text{R}^7$  are H, methyl, alkoxycarbonyl, cyano or halogen,  $\text{R}^8$  is C4-C20 tertiary alkyl,  $n$  is an integer of 0 to 4,  $p$  is a positive number,  $q$  and  $r$  each are 0 or a positive number, exclusive of  $q=r=0$ ,  $p_1$  is a positive number,  $p_2$  is 0 or a positive number, and  $p_1+p_2 = p$ . The polymer thus produced has a narrower molecular weight distribution than polymers produced by the prior art methods. A resist composition comprising the polymer as a base resin has advantages including a

[illegible]